

Large Biological Spill – Clean Up Protocol

Reference SEM 20.10 – Microbiology Lab Safety:

- a) Assess incident severity and personal contamination – remember personal exposure takes priority over clean up.
- b) Ensure risk of injury is controlled prior to initiating spill clean up.
- c) Remove any contaminated and potentially contaminated PPE and clothing.
- d) If sleeves are contaminated, lab coat or gown should be removed and placed in an autoclave bag for decontamination. Optimally this would be done in proximity to the spill.
- e) Notify all staff in the immediate vicinity of the spill and have everyone leave the area for 30 minutes to allow for aerosol settling, using normal exit procedures.
- f) Exposed personnel should wash any potentially exposed skin areas thoroughly with soap and running water.
- g) Encourage bleeding if exposure involves a sharps injury or puncture and keep washing.
- h) Exposed persons should be referred for immediate medical attention.
- i) Inform the laboratory supervisor or responsible authority immediately.
- j) Post a sign forbidding entry to immediate spill area for the settling period.
- k) Ask yourself if you have the experience and ability to clean up the spill – if not, notify your supervisor or senior lab staff who will instruct in the cleaning protocol.
- l) After 30 minutes has elapsed, don fresh, inspected, risk-appropriate PPE (double glove, closed toed shoes, laboratory coat, and eye protection minimum). LRA will determine if more is needed (e.g. a respirator).
- m) If the spill involves body fluids, blood, or human cells, ensure adequate skin coverage and wear a face mask in addition to the above listed PPE.
- n) For respiratory transmitted biological materials, the PI should determine if an N100 or HEPA filtered respirator is necessary.
- o) Assemble the biological spill kit and bring it to the spill site.
- p) Gently cover the spill with paper towel or cloth to contain it.
- q) Gently pour an appropriate disinfectant on the paper towel or cloth, starting at the outer margin of the spill areas and working concentrically towards the center of the spill.
- r) Allow for appropriate contact time.
- s) Replace any PPE that was contaminated during initial clean up steps.
- t) After contact time has elapsed, carefully remove the towels/cloth and any debris. If there is broken glass, remove this using a dustpan and broom, forceps etc.
- u) Clean and disinfect the area and dispose of the contaminated materials in a leak-proof, puncture resistant waste disposal container. Repeat if necessary.
- v) Remove contaminated PPE and don clean PPE.
- w) After disinfection notify the laboratory supervisor and the BSO that the site has been decontaminated.
- x) Depending on the size and/or nature of the spill, a complete room decontamination may be warranted – this will be determined by the PI and the BSO.